

**IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A free storage space management apparatus in a broadcasting apparatus, comprising:

~~recording means to be controlled having for recording means and that includes~~  
information relating to free storage space of the recording means; and  
~~control means for recording information in the recording means of the means to be controlled by controlling the means to be controlled, and for acquiring the information relating to the free storage space of the recording means,~~

~~wherein the control means selects the recording means by generating a list in which the recording means are arranged in decreasing order of free storage space, comparing the storage space consumption amount to the free storage space values of all the recording means, and determining whether there exists a recording means having an unused port.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The free storage space management apparatus according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein when a discrepancy occurs between the information relating to the free ~~storage space of the recording means of the means to be controlled and the~~

management information relating to free storage space in the control means, the control means synchronizes the management information relating to free storage space in the control means with the information relating to the free storage space of the recording means ~~of the means to be controlled.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The free storage space management apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the ~~recording means to be controlled has~~includes a plurality of recording means, and wherein when an operation of securing a recording area in one of the plurality of recording means in response to a command from the control means has resulted in a failure, the control means secures a recording area in another of the plurality of recording means in accordance with a reason for the failure.

5. (Currently Amended) A free storage space management method in a broadcasting apparatus, comprising the steps of:

~~acquiring wherein control means for recording information in recording means by controlling means to be controlled having information relating to free storage space of the recording means acquires the information relating to the free storage space of the recording means of the means to be controlled,~~

~~wherein the control means has management information relating to free storage space that is synchronized with the information relating to the free storage space of the recording means of the means to be controlled.~~

generating a list in which the recording means are arranged in decreasing order of free storage space;

comparing the storage space consumption amount to the free storage space values of each of the recording means; and

determining whether there exists a recording means having an unused port.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The free storage space management method according to ~~claim 6~~claim 5, wherein when a discrepancy occurs between the information relating to the free storage space of the recording means ~~of the means to be controlled and the~~ management information relating to free storage space in the control means, the control means synchronizes the management information relating to free storage space, ~~in the control means with the information relating to the free storage space of the recording means of the means to be controlled.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The free storage space management method according to claim 7, wherein the ~~recording means to be controlled has~~includes a plurality of recording means, and

wherein when an operation of securing a recording area in one of the plurality of recording means in response to a command from the control means has resulted in a failure, the control means secures a recording area in another of the plurality of recording means in accordance with a reason for the failure.

9. (Currently Amended) The free storage space management method according to claim 5, wherein ~~the means to be controlled further has second information relating to free storage space that is to be presented to the control means by the means to be controlled, and wherein when the control means tentatively secures an information recording area in the recording means, of the means to be controlled, the control means temporarily secures a recording area requested by the control means in the second information relating to free storage space but does not change a value of the information relating to the free storage space of the recording means.~~

10. (Original) The free storage space management method according to claim 9, wherein when there is a difference between the tentatively secured recording area and a recording area that has been used actually by the control means, the control means synchronizes the second information relating to free storage space with the information relating to the free storage space of the recording means.